



RECYCLING DIVISION OF
MAHONING COUNTY

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The Green Scene

Happy New Year!

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Winter 2016

Six Habits to Embrace in 2016

Each year on December 31st at the stroke of midnight, people everywhere make New Year's resolutions. And despite good intentions, research suggests that only 8% of these resolutions will be realized and 50% will be ditched by the end of February. So, for 2015 instead of setting unachievable goals, try incorporating all or some of these Earth-friendly habits into your life.

1. **Use a refillable water bottle:** Each year making water bottles used in the U.S. takes enough oil and energy to fuel 1.3 million cars. What a waste!
2. **Remember your reusable tote:** While a majority of Americans agree that it is wise to shop with a reusable

tote bag, many admit to leaving their bags in the car. When you consider the negative effects plastic bags have on wildlife and the environment, it makes perfect sense that shopping with your reusable tote should be a priority in the new year and beyond.

3. **Drink from a reusable mug:** American office workers use about 500 disposable cups per person every year. To avoid this waste, always use a ceramic mug at work and a travel mug on the road.
4. **Compost:** More than 28% of the waste stream is composed of food and yard waste. To address this issue, call the Green Team and sign up for one of our backyard

compost seminars.

5. **Detox your home:** Household cleaning products rank among the most toxic everyday substances to which people are exposed. Consider using natural homemade products instead.
6. **Eat organic as much as possible:** Organic food is grown without the use of pesticides which makes it a healthier choice for you and the planet.

So go ahead and do it. Adopt some or all of these Earth-friendly habits into your life and make the world a cleaner and greener place in the new year.



~ Kim Lewis

Enthusiasm For Your Curb

The Green Team's curbside recycling program is very popular. In fact, it is so popular that many residents are purchasing large carts at local department stores to accommodate the recyclables they place at the curb. And while this may seem like a good idea in theory, in reality, it is not.

The Green Team contracts with Republic Waste to facilitate the curbside program and the company's trucks are not equipped with the automation needed for large cart recycling. However, the bright yellow bins that the District provides are perfect for the program. They're lightweight and easy to lift

thereby eliminating any liability issues that may be caused by a heavy cart.

If you are enthusiastic about curbside recycling and require extra bins, phone the Green Team at 330.740.2060. We will be happy to assess your needs and provide you with assistance.





ABOVE: The Green Team sponsored a field trip for West Branch MS to Beaver Creek Park
BELOW: Springfield Elementary students turned trash into treasure during a recycled craft workshop.



Environmental Education

There has been much written lately about Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD). NDD is a term coined by author Richard Louv to describe the disconnect that exists in today's society between children and the natural environment. Due to the popularity of electronic devices and more structured playtime indoors, many children are being

deprived of environmental education.

Always striving to be part of the solution, the Green Team offers a variety of environmental education programs that combat NDD. Whether it is a lively eco-game, outdoor field trip, or interactive skit, there is something on our list for students at every grade level. Also included on

our list are recycled craft workshops. These activities not only help children hone fine motor skills, but stress the importance of diverting reusable material from the waste stream.

To learn more about environmental education programs, please call the Green Team and ask for Peg or Kim. You'll be happy you did!

Environmental Quote

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

~ Albert Einstein
Physicist



Teachers enjoyed playing the recycling relay game during the 2015 EECO Workshop.



Earth-Day-to-Earth-Day Placemat Contest



Another exciting "Earth Day to Earth Day Placemat Contest" has arrived! Students in grades one through eight in all Mahoning County public and private schools are encouraged to enter this year's contest. One winner from each grade will receive a \$25 gift card from Dominion.

To enter, a student

must design a poster with a theme based upon the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, or Recycle) or an anti-litter theme. They may be made with crayon, colored pencil, or markers on 8 and 1/2" by 11" paper or 11" by 17" paper, nothing larger. These are due at the Green Team office by 4:30 pm on Fri-

day, March 18, 2016.

Placemats will be made from the winning posters, and laminated copies will be given to the winning artists at an awards' ceremony at a Mahoning County Commissioners' meeting in May. If you have questions, call the Green Team at 330-740-2060.

~ Peg Flynn

EECO Teacher Workshop

The Region 12 Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) is sponsoring its 19th Annual EE Resource Fair Workshop on March 26. Based on an invasive species theme, the workshop will feature educational programs provided by a group of local environmental organizations. Activities conducted

during the six-hour workshop will include classroom presentations, a sharing table, static displays, recycled and nature crafts, and outdoor exploration-weather permitting.

Preregistration for the workshop is required. IPDC certificates will be available for 6 contact hours. Lunch, snacks, and

educational material will be provided. To reduce waste, attendees are encouraged to bring their travel mugs.

The workshop will take place at Trumbull SWCD located in Cortland. If you would like to sign up for this exciting workshop, contact Sheila Cubick at sheilac@zoominternet.net.

Wetlands - Nature's Sponge

Contrary to popular belief wetlands are more than a swamp or a mosquito breeding ground. Wetlands are nature's sponge providing benefits at no cost to land owners or taxpaying citizens. Here are some highlighted benefits:

- ⇒ Wetlands slow the flow of water down and reduce flooding.
- ⇒ Wetlands act as a

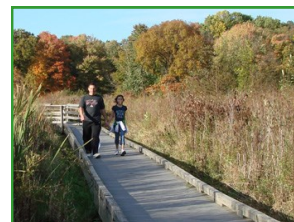
natural filter to prevent pollution.

- ⇒ Wetlands store water and in turn help ground water recharge.

For an enriching experience, visit Mill Creek Park's Newport Wetlands. The Newport Wetlands drains approximately 58.2 square miles of the Mill Creek Watershed. Land uses within

the drainage area include rural and urban areas with pollutants ranging from failing septic systems to agricultural run-off to motor oil, road salt, pet waste and more.

Wetlands serve an important function in the environment. They reduce flooding, prevent pollution, and recharge ground water. All good reasons to value wetlands.



Hikers enjoy
Mill Creek Metropark's
Newport Wetlands



Winter Deicing Tips



Excess salt and other deicing chemicals can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter, you can help by following these Earth-friendly snow removal practices:

- Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing

chemicals like salt.

- Shovel snow onto grassy areas. This will allow water to soak into the ground rather than overtax storm drains.

If you must use deicing chemicals, follow these suggestions:

- Control application of chemical deicers and

avoid over application.

- Use salt substitutes that are less harmful to the environment including Calcium Chloride and Magnesium Chloride.
- After snowmelt, sweep up residues to prevent products from washing into storm drains.



How many winter birds can you identify? To learn more log onto <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/portals/wildlife/pdfs/publications/id%20guides/pub414.pdf>

Winter Magic in Your Own Back Yard

During winter, I love to watch the birds at my backyard feeders. Cardinals, blue jays, chickadees and others provide an array of lovely color against a snowy background. This steady activity reminds me of how essential it is to feed birds when natural food is scarce.

Supporting wildlife programs and conveying this message to children is important. That is why during winter, Green Team educators regularly conduct classroom presentations encouraging children to get involved. We always begin by sharing a story that illustrates the message

and follow up with an enrichment activity that allows students to create bird feeders for home.

I hope that you will open your hearts and support wildlife by feeding the birds this winter. It is truly a magical experience that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

~ Kim Lewis





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E-Waste Update

If you received a new computer, TV or other electronic device for Christmas please remember to recycle your old unit. For a complete list of local electronic recycling facilities visit our website at www.greenteam.cc and refer to the recycling catalog. And remember: Always phone ahead for specific information about electronic and all recycling programs.



greenteam.cc



Post-Holiday Reminder



Between now and January 31, gift-wrap and greeting cards will be accepted at all Mahoning County drop-off sites and at the curb. Be sure that paper is loose or in a brown paper bag; plastic bags are not permitted in any of the Green Team programs. Cut trees will be accepted at the locations listed below.

- * Austintown Twp. Park - 6000 Kirk Rd.
- * Berlin Twp. Bldg.- St. Rt. 224, Berlin Center
- * Campbell Roosevelt Park - Struthers Liberty Rd.
- * Canfield Twp. Fire Station - 5007 Messerly Rd.
- * Craig Beach / Milton Twp. - 1979 Grandview, next to fire station
- * Ellsworth Twp. Fire Station.- St. Rt. 45, Ellsworth
- * Goshen Twp. Maintenance Garage - 12649 Seacrist Rd, Salem
- * Green Twp. Cemetery - Intersection of St. Rt. 165 & Beaver Creek Rd.
- * Jackson Twp. Admin. Bldg., 10613 Mahoning Ave, N. Jackson
- * Lowellville Village St. Dept.- 3 W. McGaffney Rd.
- * New Middletown / Springfield - 10720 Struthers Rd, next to fire station
- * Poland Twp. Rd. Dept.-7508 Clingan Rd.
- * Smith Twp. Bldg.- 846 N. Johnson Rd, Sebring
- * Struthers City provides curbside pick-up
- * Youngstown - CCA Building (former South Library) 1771 Market St.



For further information about recycling and other solid waste management programs, visit our website at www.greenteam.cc or follow us on facebook.

